12.

A

TRUE

RELATION

OF THE

ACTIONS

OF THE

French FLEET

BEFORE

GENOVA.

Together with the meſſages that paſſed between the ſaid Fleet, and the City.

THE *Sieur du Quesne*, General of the *Maritime* Forces of *France* with the Duke *de Mortemar* Lieutenant General, and Commander of the Galleys, and the Marqueſs *Seignelay* Superintendent of the *Maritime* Affairs, with a Fleet conſiſting of 20 Galleys, 10 Galliots, carrying each 2 Mortar-pieces for Bombes, 14 Men of War, 6 Fly-Boats, 18 Tartanes, 20 Chaloups, and 40 great Fiſher-boats caſt Anker on the 16*th* of *May* 1684. in the Port of *Vade* near *Savona*, depending on the Republick of *Genova*, and ſituated between *Savona*, and Final, the Fort of *Savona* ſaluted the *French Fleet* in the uſual manner, and ſhe anſwered accordingly. The ſame day being the 16*th* the Marqueſs *de Seignelay* ſent order to the *French* Conſul at *Genova*, for him to come on board, which he did, and next day being the 17*th*, he returned to *Genova*, with Orders not to demand of the Republick, the Admiſſion of the *French* Navy into the Port, but to ſignifie to them they muſt clear the two Moles, to the end the Fleet might Anker there on the 18*th*, and this Meſſage was, performed with ſo much Authority and Haughtineſs, as if *Monſieur de Seignelay* had commanded in the Port of *Marſeilles*, where doubtleſs he would have ſpared; treating a Governour, that depends on the King his Maſter ſo rudely. The Republick made the moſt modeſt anſwer that could be, giving at the ſame time the reaſons, that hindred them from admitting that Fleet into their Ports, becauſe of the threats the moſt Chriſtian King had ſent them by the *Engliſh* Ambaſſador, at ſuch time as he uſed all good office in their behalf, with him by His Majeſty of Great *Brittains* order, and becauſe of the advice they had received, that that Fleet had not come out of the Ports of *France* upon any other deſign, but to brave that State, but however that ſhould not hinder them from giving them all the aſſiſtance they could in refreſhments, and any thing elſe they ſhould ſtand in need of: and the republick foreſeeing what the effects of their reſolution might be, ſent immediatly to haſten the March of a *Spaniſh* Regiment of Foot, which a little before, they had deſired of the Count *de Mel-*

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gar Governour of the State of *Milan*, to the end it ſhould be ready upon the Fronteers in caſe they ſhould ſtand in need of it. The ſaid Regiments uſed ſuch diligence in their March, that they Travelled 10 Leagues without reſting, and entred the Town of the 18*th*, at the ſame time that the *French* Fleet begun to appear, and draw up in Battel array, about a League and a half from *Genova*. The Town ſaluted the Fleet as the cuſtom is, as much in regard of the number of Veſſels and Galleys, as of the Generals, who alſo anſwered as has been always uſed; and becau'e the Deputies that uſe to go to compliment the Generals, ſtaid ſomewhat long, the Marqueſs *de Seignelay* ſent to complain to the Republick, ſaying, he wondered they ſtayed ſo long, and immediatly Six Gentlemen Deputies went out to make him the ſaid compliment, and offer him the refreſhment which is uſually ſent; but inſtead of correſponding to the civility of the Republick, the Marqueſs *de Seignelay* began to exaggerate the diſreſpect, that had been uſed towards the King his Maſter, adding a Thouſand impertinencies, and in concluſion gave them a Paper compoſed of ſo much haughtineſs, and ſo many extravagancies, that it ſeemed to have been dictated by the great *Turk*, the principal points whereof were, that the Republick ſhould yield up to the King their four new Galleys, and one of the others perfectly rigged and fitted for ſervice; ſhould ſend ſix of their principal Senators, to beg his pardon for their proceedings, and not having obeyed his Orders, to aſſure him they repent, and ſhall amend for the future; promiſing to obey and follow the Orders and Will of his moſt Chriſtian Majeſty in all things, and ſo doing, they might perhaps find grace and pardon for their faults.

The Deputies anſwered, they would make their report to the Republick, but this they could ſay they were moſt aſſured, they had done nothing that they ought to ask pardon for of His Majeſty, and knew the reſpect was due to his Royal Perſon; that the Republick never had fewer Galleys, and they well knew the Government loſt them, by the frequent prizes the *Turkiſh* Pyrats took of their proviſions, and they were now reſolved to oppoſe it and encreaſe the number of their Galleys, by four new ones, without the leaſt deſign of offending any body, but to ſend them to joyn with the Pope's againſt the *Turks*, and thought in ſo doing, they had not failed of their reſpect towards His Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty.

The Marqueſs *de Seignelay* made anſwer, that if neither five hours time he had not a ſatisfactory anſwer to what the writing, he had given them contained, he would execute the Orders he had from the King his Maſter.

The Deputies being returned to the City, and having made their report to the Republick, who conſidering how the Marqueſs treated them in a minute by the full conſent of all reſolved to defend their liberty; and having to this effect given *Don Carlo Taſſo*, a Perſon of great underſtanding and capacity the neceſſary orders, and choſe him Camp Maſter General, and Governour of their Armes, the Republick in a very little time diſpoſed all things for a vigorous defence, giving the poſts that were moſt expoſed to the *Spaniards*; and the term of five hours being elapſed, without their coming to any reſolution to the Marqueſs *de Seignelay*'s liking; the Enemies being buried in coming nearer the City, *Don Carlo Taſſo* gave the ſign with a ſmoke to make ready to fire; but whereas at the ſame time the enemies came nearer and deſiſted not at the ſecond ſign they began to diſcharge the Artillery on both ſides, and play upon each other vigorouſly, and the *French* to caſt their Bombes and Granadoes, by which the Palace of the *Duke* or *Doge* took fire the third day. The People began to take the fright, the confuſion growing the greater by the burning of two convents of Nuns, which were burnt to the ground, and are thoſe of St. *Andrew*, and St. *Sebaſtian*, whence the Nuns being retired in the night to ſecure themſelves, all the religious of the other Convents and Monaſteries did the ſame: in the mean time the People enraged againſt the *French* began to plunder all their houſes, and going yet farther, in a little time did the ſame to the other inhabitants houſes, but the General *Don Carlo Taſſo* ſpeedily remedied it with the aſſiſtance of the *Spaniſh* and *Neapolitan* Troops, the latter having come in the 20*th* day in the morning;

morning; the general took and executed several of these Robbers, so that we may say *Genova* owes its preservation to the arrival of the *Spanish* Regiments that came in so luckily. In Fine, the rabble of the City and that which had flocked in from the Country, was capable with the *French* to destroy the City, but God preserved it. The Count *de Melgor* sent also a detachment of the Country foot, and the rest of the Army of *Millain* advanced to the Frontier of this State.

The Count *de Melgar* General and Captain General being come to *Tortona* on the 21 of this month, to be nearer at hand for whatever should happen, being advertised of the consternation there began to be here many of the people and even of the Majestrates having left all with the fright of the fire and Bombes to save themselves the Count advanced in person till this place, to calme the affrighted spirits with his presents, and encourage them to their defence and preservation, and in effect it happened: insomuch that from the time he came into the City, every body took courage, and in a moment all order was restored to the great satisfact, and content of the City and its inhabitants.

The *French* continued casting Bombes and Granadoes four days and three nights, and the 22*th* about noon they ceased and Monsieur *de Seignelay* sent an Officer a shore with a *Felucca* who demanded to speak with the Duke, but it was not granted, and he was forced to stay on board the Admiral Galley of the Republick in the Port, a Secretary was sent to him from the *Senate* to know his message who said Monsieur *de Seignelay* much resented the damage was done to the City, and if they resolved to send Deputies, and were disposed to give the King his Master satisfaction according as he demanded, abandoning the protection of *Spain*, mercy should still be used, but if they obstinatly persist in the state they are, he can let them know he had already spent 6000 Bombes against the City, but had still 10000 left him, with which he would ruine the said City, and gave a farther declaration of his intention in a paper. A Counsel was held in hast, and the junto of the Government answered that the Duke not being able to take any resolution alone, he would assemble the Senate to give a positive answer: this was done to gain time and prolong this little truce, during which time the treasure of St. *George* could be saved and past into a place of security, as was done that night, when part of it was removed to a safer place, chose for that purpose. After which the *French* taking for a full answer that the Town was more fully resolved than ever to defend it self, they began on the 23*d* to play their canon upon the City, and endamage it with their Bombes and granadoes, though with less violence then before, and being they could not reach farther than they had, the people began to cast of their fear, and remain firm against the threats of the *French*. The batteries of the City continued firing upon the Fleet, but without much damage to them, because they kept out of the reach of Canon and the Gallies that carry the Bombes are proof against our Artillery.

The 24*th* in the Morning the Enemies attempted two descents, one on the side of *Bisagno*, and the other on the side of St. *Peter d' Arena*, they were loaded with Bombes, Granadoes, Petards, Faggots, Scaling ladders and other warlike instruments, but those two places being guarded by good Troops drawn out of the *Spanish*, and *Neapolitan* Regiments they fought stoutly, and the *French* were quite driven from their posts. On the side of *Bisagno* were taken 30 prisoners, most Officers, and Knights of *Malta*; among the deal was found the *Sieur de la Motthe* Captain of a man of War, much lamented among his People. At St. *Peter de Arena* there also remained many dead upon the place, Captain *Don Antonio de Luna a Neapolitan Signalireb* himself extremely, for having broke into the midst of his Enemies with his Sword in his hand, he killed several, and among the rest a *French* Captain, and received a wound in his throat by a Musket shot; the *French* betook themselves to a disorderly Flight, leaving behind them Pick-axes, Mattocks, and other Instruments they had brought to fortifie themselves.

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The 25, 26, and 27. they continued casting their Bombes with all possible fury, but *Don Basilio Marini*, Lieutenant General of the Artillery of *Millan*, who the Count *de Melgar* had sent to *Genova* with a number of Canoneers, having viewed the Order of the Galliots, whence the Enemies cast their Bombs, and considered how he could best annoy them, resolved to make some artificial Fire-works, and on the 28 came down towards the Sea, where he thought he could best reach them with his Calverins, and sped so well that he sunk one of the said Galliots of the Bombes, and obliged the rest to make off to Sea; and did also some damage to the Galleys.

The same day being the Twenty eighth about noon, the *French* ceased casting their Bombes, and sent again a Shaloup to shore, and the Commander of the Vessels of *Genova* having also advanced half a League in a Shaloup to meet him, and prevent his coming sooner, he found there a Trumpeter with a Letter for a Captain of one of the Galleys of the Republick, called *Lomellino*, by which he was desired to send word, whether *Monsieur de la Motthe* was a Prisoner and alive. He took the Letter to see what answer must be made, which was done, by letting them know that having viewed all the Prisoners, which are very many, he was not to be found.

The same day about night, the *French* withdrew all their Galliots of Bombes, some small Vessels two Galleys and a Man of War, and gave demonstration of some disposition the whole Fleet would do the same, as appeared next day being the *29th* at break of day, steering their course to the west-ward, and it is thought with intention to return to some port of Provance, whereby the City of *Genova* is left free, to the great satisfaction of the Republick, which openly confesseth it owes its preservation to the *Spanish* protection, and its arms which latred the City very seasonably, and to the particular activity, wherewith the Count *de Melgar* always acted upon this occasion.

The Writing.

That Mr. the Marquess de Seignelay *gave to the Sir* Francesco Saoli, *head of the Deputation of the Six Gentlemen, that the Republick sent to compliment him at his Arrival before* Genova May *the* 16th. 1684. *at eleven in the Morning.*

It is long since the behaviour of your republick in all things that concern the King, has given you sufficient occasion to apprehend the effects of his just indignation.

You have upon all occasions discovered your union, and adherence to the interest of his Enemies; and you have besides of late given manifest proofs of it, in suffering the King of *Spain* to take upon him the quality of Protector of your City.

To purchase this disadvantagious protection, you have encreased the number of your Galleys, with a design to joyn them with those of *Spain*.

You have refused to disarm these new Galleys, and intended to send them to Sea last Summer, notwithstanding what was signified unto you from a Prince, from whom alone you can hope for protection, and whose will should be a rule to your Government, if you love your own safety.

You have suffered the wrong done to his Ministers Domesticks to pass unpunished.

You have ruined his subjects by the ill usage you have made them suffer in their commerce, and have been so perfidious, as to refuse the proposal we made to you, for allowing a Magazine of Salt to be made at *Savona*. It was in truth a thing of small importance, but however has served to discover the more how little respect you bear His Majesty, and the difference you make between what concerns him and *Spain*.

So ill a carriage deserved an immediate punishment; but His Majesty will nevertheless of his goodness grant you time to repent, and take better measures.

And

And that you may divert the effects of his just resentments, you must presently deliver into the hands of his Officers the four Galleys equipped, and give another well furnished with its company, so that it be in a condition to go immediatly to Sea, you must depute four of your Principal Senators to beg pardon of His Majesty, for your past miscatriages, giving him sufficient testimony of your entire Submission to his Orders, in all things that shall be laid upon you by him, and in whatever hereafter he may have need of you either for his service, or satisfaction.

His Majesty allows you till five of the Clock in the Evening, to consider upon his proposals. But I declare to you on his behalf, that it is the last effect of his clemency, and goodness you are to look for, and that if within this time you do not accept of it, and suffer the first act of hostility to begin, you must no longer hope to obtain such moderate conditions; and the useless protection of *Spain* will not be able to secure you from a resentment, that will be followed by the total ruine and destruction of your Country, and will make you feel how terrible the effects of so great a Kings Indignation are.

The Writing.

Given by an Officer of the French *Fleet to the Secretary of the Republick*, May *the* 22. 1684. *at two in the Afternoon in the Admiral Galley of the most Serene Republick.*

The Marquess *de Seignelay* sends me to tell you, that he is much concerned to see the condition your Town is reduced to, and the dismal effects of what he foretold you, before you had refused the proposals he made you from the King.

You may judge by the terrible destruction 6000 Bombes have made, what you are to fear from 10000 more that remain. And you ought not to doubt but he is in a better condition than before to make you feile their effects.

We know what places in your *City* have suffer'd most, and shall for the future fire at the farthest that are not as yet prejuticed, so that you cannot hope one stone will be left upon another.

Yet these great ils, are but inconsiderable compared with those you must apprehend from the continuation of a War you are so unable to maintain.

He will still tell you, he has power to reconcile you to the King, so that all what is past shall be forgotten, and that putting your selves in a condition of hindring the burning of your Town, you may expect nothing but marks of protection from His Majesty. If you accept his offers of Accommodation, you may send those you shall think fit to agree the conditions, but if you persist in your obstinacy, and the vain hope you have placed in the Spanish Succors, and continue to reject the mercy the King is willing to grant you, all the world shall know you exposed your selves of your own will to the invitable danger of loosing your City, and that by the refusal you make of the advantages might be had in the Kings clemency and goodness, you have drawn upon your selves all the rigour of his Justice.

The answer given to the Officer of the Vessels by the Secretary of the Republick.

His sereness having heared the report I made him of what was said to me from the Marquess *de Seignelay*, has ordered me to answer, that sending of Deputies is a thing must of necessity be resolved in Council, according to the Laws, and it should be assembled the next day to that effect.

As for the rest, that how great soever the damage received the last days was, it bore no proportion with the courage and resolution of the Citizens for main-

maintaining their liberty, beſides that the republick has all reaſon imaginable to be perſwaded, that it has given His Majeſty no occaſion to be thus uſed.

The Reply of Mr. de Seignelay *given that ſame Night to the Secretary of the moſt Serene Republick, to the anſwer of the ſaid Secretary upon the propoſition made at Noon.*

Memoire *of Mr.* de Bonrepans *Controuler of the Kings Fleet, to be delivered to the Deputies of the Republick of Geneva.*

Since it appears by the anſwer given to the Major of the Fleet the Sir the Marqueſs *de Seignelay's* Deputy, that the neceſſity of aſſembling the Council, as well for the ſending of Deputies, as deliberating upon the propoſitions to be made, will require a conſiderable time, wheras a ſhort and ſatisfactory anſwer is required, either to make all acts of haſtily quite ceaſe, or begin them again in a more ſenſible manner: the ſaid Marqueſs *de Seignelay* declares that the propoſals he can make for the King his Maſter are, that the 4 new Galleys that were fited laſt year ſhall be delivered into the hands of His Majeſties Officers; that they ſhall be in a condition to go to Sea, and two ſhall be provided with men and guns.

That the Republick ſhall give 600000 Liures in ready money, for part of the charges of the Fleet.

That it ſhall depute 4 of its Principal Senators to the King, to beg of him to forget what is paſt, and give him new teſtimonies of their ſubmiſſion and reſpect.

That a Magazine of ſalt ſhall be allowed to be made at Savona upon the conditions already propoſed.

The Marqueſs *de Seignelay* moreover declares, that he can grant no longer time to deliberate upon theſe Propoſitions, then till 10 of the Clock next Morning, and if the Republick conſents to accept of them, they muſt ſend Deputies with the neceſſary Authority to conclude with him; which failing, he ſhall ſee though with regret into what great inconveniencies it brings it ſelf, by falling out with the greateſt Prince in *Europe*.

Next he asked of the Secretary of the Republick, at what time the Counſel aſſembled, and he having anſwered at 14. which after our reckoning is 10, the other replied, that if the Anſwer could not be ſent preciſely at that hour, it would be well done to acquaint the Marqueſs *de Seignelay* at what hour Deputies could be ſent, in hopes that the Marqueſs being advertiſed, would make no difficulty of waiting a little longer.

The Anſwer of the little Counſel ſent to the Marqueſs de Seignelay *by the Officer of War.*

That there was no opportunity of regulating propoſitions in the midſt of the fire of the Bombes. That the Republick had ſuch confidence in the Juſtice of their cauſe, and the undaunted courage of its Citizens, that they would ſee without the leaſt concern the ruine of the whole City, and beſides had that ſatisfaction before God and the World, that they were aſſured they had given no occaſion for ſuch Barbarous reſentments.

F I N I S.

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